

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q74947

Yasuhide ODASHIMA, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/550,270

Group Art Unit: 1793

Confirmation No.: 3137

Examiner: Kevin P. KERNS

Filed: July 6, 2006

For: HORIZONTALLY CONTINUOUSLY CAST ROD OF ALUMINUM ALLOY AND
METHOD AND EQUIPMENT FOR PRODUCING THE ROD

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, except for the following: U.S. patents and/or U.S. patent publications; and co-pending non-provisional U.S. applications filed after June 30, 2003.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after

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UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98
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filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application citing such documents (Office Action issued on November 4, 2008 in Japanese Patent Application No. 2004-091979).

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant submits the following explanations: Applicant is providing a machine translation and an English-language abstract for JP 9-30773, which constitutes a concise explanation of the relevance of this document.

In the Information Disclosure Statement filed January 23, 2009, and the Form PTO/SB/08 submitted therewith, Applicants referred to JP 58-221611 A. Applicants should have listed JP 04-006449 B2 as the document being submitted, and should have stated that the abstract for JP 58-221611 A was being submitted as corresponding to JP 04-006449 B2. On the attached Form PTO/SB/08, Applicants now list JP 04-006449 B2, since this was the actual document that was submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement of January 23, 2009.

Also cited in the Japanese Office Action were: JP 2003-019533; JP 02-192860; JP 62-286623; JP 04-190947; JP 01-092039; JP 01-147039; JP 07-040017; JP 11-254093; JP 58-100016; JP 07-311179; JP 04-006449 B2; the SHINJO et al article; and the TAKIMIZU, et al article.

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These documents were submitted previously in the Information Disclosure Statement of January 23, 2009, and therefore copies are not being submitted at the present time.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

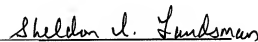
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Date: March 2, 2009


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